

## Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 /092 W

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R 251015Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8873

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 5817

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, BG, IN

SUBJ: ANTI-INDIANISM IN BANGLADESH

REF: NEW DELHI 15539

1. ANTI-INDIAN FEELING, ENDEMIC IN BANGLADESH FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW, HAS BEEN HEIGHTENED SINCE THE NOVEMBER 3 COUP ATTEMPT OF KHALID MOSHTARRAF, BUT WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF ANY UNUSUAL MANIFESTATION OF THAT HOSTILITY. ACCORDING TO POLICE SOURCES, WALL POSTERS AND GRAFFITI HAVE APPEARED IN THE PAST FEW DAYS IN CHITTAGONG, KHULNA, RAJSN HI, RANGPUR, AND DINAJPUR; WHETHER THESE POSTERS DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY IN CONTEXT

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FROM THOSE THAT PERIODICALLY APPEAR IN ANY EVENT IS NOT YET CLEAR TO US.

2. THIS ANTI-INDIANISM APPARENTLY HAS NOT TAKEN ON ANY COMMUNAL OVERTONES. THERE ARE REPORTS OF ISOLATED INCIDENTS IN WHICH MUSLIMS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO ENCROACH UPON THE LANDS OF WEALTHY HINDUS BUT THESE APPEAR TO BE ECONOMICALLY MOTIVATED EFFORTS, ALTHOUGH PROBABLY ENCOURAGED BY THE PRESENT MOOD. THE GOVERNMENT IS ALERT TO ANY POTENTIAL SERIOUS TROUBLE. IT HAS POSTED POLICE PICKETS AROUND HINDU NEIGHBORHOODS AND HAS INSTRUCTED MOFUSSIL AUTHORITIES -- DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS, POLICE SUPERINTENDENTS, AND LOCAL ARMY COMMANDERS -- TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT COMMUNAL CONFLICT. WE KNOW OF ONE INSTANCE WHERE AN ARMY COLONEL IN FACT WAS ABLE TO PREVENT AN ATTEMPTED ENCROACHMENT BY A FEW MUSLIM VILLAGERS ON HINDU PROPERTY.

3. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HOLIDAY, THE DACCA PRESS HAS BEEN CAUTIOUS IN REPORTING ON RELATIONS WITH INDIA. NOVEMBER 22, HOWEVER, ITTEFAQ PUBLISHED A LONG ARTICLE ON ITS EDITORIAL PAGE WHICH WAS CRITICAL OF INDIA. THE ARTICLE DREW ATTENTION TO VARIOUS OFFICIAL INDIAN STATEMENTS THAT BANGLADESH'S PROBLEMS WERE ITS OWN INTERNAL MATTER; IT ALSO ASKED IF INDIA'S ACTIONS MATCHED ITS WORDS, CITING WHAT IT CALLED EXAGGERATED, PROPAGANDISTIC RESPONSES "IN ONE OF THE CAPITALS" TO SOME EVENTS IN BANGLADESH. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDED BY CALLING FOR AN END TO MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND A POLICY OF GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONSHIP BASED ON NON-INTERFERENCE IN EACH OTHER'S AFFAIRS.  
CHESLAW

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